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2                   OUTDOOR SPECTATOR COVER  
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4                   *Background of the Invention*  
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6         The present invention relates to the invention of a novel  
7         cover which encloses the lower portion of the body of a person  
8         who is exposed to the cold and sometimes wet conditions ~~which~~  
9         obtain<sup>ing</sup> at sporting events such as football or soccer games or  
10       any other outdoor activity. The present application claims  
11       priority based upon provisional patent application 60/209404, D  
12       filed JUNE 1, 2000 by the same inventor as this application.  
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14                   *Field of the Invention*  
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16         The present invention relates to the field of protective  
17         devices or garments primarily intended for use by spectators at  
18         sporting events. Many of such sporting events are presented in  
19         large stadiums designed to hold tens of thousands of people on  
20         floor and seats of concrete, metal, wood, or other hard heat  
21         conducting surfaces. In many such outdoor stadiums, the stadium  
22         receives heavy snow or rain or both and the depth of moisture in  
23         the stadium is often more than six inches. For this reason,  
24         waterproofing to at least that depth is exceedingly important  
25         for a spectator cover.

26                   *Description of the Prior Art*  
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28         The closest prior art known to the applicant is shown in  
29         U.S. patents 5,283,909 and 3,597,764 and 2,242,130. None of  
30         these patents shows either the physical structure or the  
31         function taught by the present invention. In particular no  
32         known structure for such a personal cover shows the combination  
33         of flexibility, warmth, and waterproof qualities necessary for  
34

1 the active spectator. The bottom of the cover on which the feet  
2 of the spectator rest must be flexible for the spectator to  
3 remain properly balanced while moving, stomping and cheering yet  
4 dry and warm. The present invention meets all of these  
5 objectives. The present invention permits the spectator who is  
6 wearing the cover to retain a tactile sense of the surface on  
7 which he or she is standing through the very thin bottom surface  
8 of the cover which is highly flexible yet waterproof.

9                   *Summary of the Invention*

10          The present invention teaches, in two embodiments, novel  
11 spectator covers, generally made of a soft flexible, insulated,  
12 waterproof or water resistant material. The present inventive  
13 cover must retain sufficient flexibility to enable the user to  
14 retain his or her balance in an environment where the spectator  
15 is physically active in cheering and mobile enough to permit  
16 other spectators to pass by him or her in moving across the row  
17 of seats commonly found in a modern sports arena.

18                   *Brief Description of the Drawings*

19          Figures 1 shows a front perspective view of one embodiment  
20 of the present invention.

21          Figures 2 and 3 are front perspective views of the  
22 embodiment shown in Figures 1 showing the upper and lower  
23 portion of the present invention.

24          Figure 4 is a sectional view of the lower portion of the  
25 present invention taken along the lines 4-4 shown in Figure 3.

1       Figure 5 is a partial perspective view of the upper portion  
2 of the present invention showing a second embodiment of the  
3 upper portion of the invention.

4       Figure 6 is a front perspective view of the present invention  
5 in its carrying cover forming part of the present invention.

7                                  *Description of the Preferred Embodiment*

8       Figure 1 is a perspective view of a first embodiment of the  
9 present invention in which a novel cover 10 for a spectator at a  
10 sporting or other outdoor event is shown. The cover has a  
11 generally tubular or cylindrical shape open at one end and  
12 closed at the other end and having about a twenty inch diameter  
13 and an axial length of about forty-five inches. The lower  
14 portion of the cylinder 15 is formed of a two-part multi-layer  
15 material with a waterproof base of about twenty inches in  
16 diameter and eight inches in axial length when finished. The  
17 waterproof base has an inner insulated layer 44 as shown in  
18 Figure 4. The outer layer 40 may be a vinyl or plastic and the  
19 inner layer may be wool, cotton, or any other insulating  
20 material. The lower portion of the base is formed from an  
21 essentially flat circular member 16. The upper portion of the  
22 base 14 is formed from a similar material as the lower portion  
23 but shaped in a rectangular form such that when attached to the  
24 base it forms a cylinder about eight inches in axial length and  
25 about twenty inches in diameter closed at one end.

1       The upper portion of the bag 11 is formed of a wind and  
2 water resistant material such as dense or tightly woven nylon  
3 material for an outer layer 12. Upper portion 11 also has an  
4 inner layer 13 of double sided fleece material of wool, cotton,  
5 or other suitable fabric which is both soft and flexible.

6       The upper portion 11 of the bag is able to be opened along  
7 the major part of its axial length to permit the user easy entry  
8 to the bag as shown in Figure 2 and attached Appendix A ~~inside~~  
9 front cover which is hereby incorporated by reference into this  
10 application. Along the axial portion of the bag on either side  
11 of the opening are mating hook and loop fastening material 28  
12 and 29 (although a zipper or other fastener could be substituted  
13 for the hook and loop closure).

14      At the other end of the bag, away from the base 15 is  
15 formed, usually by sewing, a runway 22 through which runs a cord  
16 24 formed of polyester or nylon. The cord ~~exists~~<sup>exists</sup> the runway  
17 either at the ends thereof 21, 23 or through eyelits 123, 125  
18 shown in Figure 5 formed in the runway at both ends. If the  
19 eyelits 21, 23 are employed, the ends of the runway 22 are  
20 closed as shown in Figure 5. The cord has a "barrel stop" 30 or  
21 similar termination to prevent the cord from sliding into the  
22 stitched runway.

23      A plurality of pockets 20 and 50 are attached to the bag.  
24 One pocket 50 is inside the bag at the upper or waist level and  
25 the other 20 on the outside of the bag at a level between one-  
third to one-quarter the distance from the base of the bag.

1 Either or both pockets 20,50 may be closed by either a mating  
2 hook and loop closure 54, 52 or any other suitable closing  
3 structure.

4 The entire bag is able to be fitted in a carry bag 60, shown in Figure  
5 6, cylindrical in shape, with a rimmed top 64 with a runway 66 which has an  
6 opening 68 for a two cord shoulder strap 62 which acts as a closure for the  
7 carry bag. A clasp 70 is attached to the carry bag to enable its attachment  
8 to the bag while the bag is itself in use.  
*Spectator cover*  
*A*

9 The embodiments of the present invention which have been  
10 shown and described are illustrative of the main principles of  
11 the invention but the following claims shall not be limited to  
12 the embodiments shown. The claims are intended to cover and do  
13 cover those variations of the invention which are apparent to  
14 those skilled in the art.

Claims

15 I claim:

16 1. A cover for a spectator at sporting events comprising:  
17 *has an upper and lower end and*  
18 a first soft, flexible cylindrical upper member *having an* having an  
19 inside and outside member in which the upper member is able to  
20 be opened and closed to permit the insertion of the lower  
portion of the body of the spectator;

21 the upper member outside member is formed of a wind and  
22 water resistant material and the inside member formed of a heat  
23 insulating material;

24 the upper member has near its upper end a runway member to  
25 receive a closure member for closing the upper member tightly  
about the body of the spectator;